THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Development of regional hub depends upon the traffic and commercial viabilities of such operation from the airports as perceived by airline operators. Airports Authority of India is undertaking following works to upgrade Guwahati airport to international standards:—

(i) expansion of terminal building,

(ii) central air conditioning of arrival and departure halls,

(iii) strengthening of existing runway,

(iv) expansion of apron.

Non-Availability of Refuelling Ladder at Amritsar Airport

1211.SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Amritsar Airport did not have the ladder required for refuelling Air Buses on 24th December, 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to make all the airports self-sufficient in respect of such equipinents to prevent delays?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Step ladders are not required for refuelling of aircraft. Refuelling of aircraft is done with the help of bowsers available with the Oil Companies.

International Airport at Agra

†1212. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project to develop the Airport at Air Force area at Agra into an International Airport was made;

(b) if so, the time-frame for completing the said project and project's status at present; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) by when Government would complete the said project and start using it actually?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Harassment of Tourists

1213. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign tourists and N.R.Is at times, are harassed at International Airports in the country; and

(b) whether Government have any plan to bring about an attitudinal change amongst these officials and promote tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Airports Authority of India and Ministry of Civil Avaition have received some complaints in this regard.

(b) Regular customer orientation training programmes are conducted for the officials and others at the airport to bring about attitudinal change. Moreover, disciplinary authorities are asked to take strick deterrant action against the government servant involved. Action is also initiated against touts.

Action against Officials in Hijack cases

1214. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines flights had been hijacked the maximum number of times in comparison, with the international hijackings during the last two decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact despite this dubious track record, Indian Airlines has never taken any action against its officials who issue boarding passes to the passengers including the hijackers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?